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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Working Paper Submitted by the Chairman in Collaboration with the Officers of the Committee

1. As requested by the Committee at its first meeting on 9 June 1964, I submit herewith a working paper setting out some guiding principles for the Committee's work with specific proposals for consideration by the Committee. In the phrases of the summary record of that meeting, the Committee desired that the proposals should be prepared by the Chairman with the assistance of the Secretariat and in collaboration with the other officers of the Committee. I have interpreted this to mean that the Committee wishes to have the proposals of the Bureau, and whereas this working paper is presented strictly in accordance with the terminology of the decision, I wish to make it clear that I was accorded the fullest co-operation of the other members of the Bureau. Where, however, any proposal in this working paper does not have the endorsement of all the other members of the Bureau, the fact that it does not is so stated.

The Committee's Terms of Reference

2. The Committee has been appointed in accordance with a decision of the Commission on Human Rights accorded in resolution 6 (XX), adopted on 14 March 1964. In terms of this resolution, the Committee has been appointed -

> "to recommend a programme of measures and activities to be undertaken by Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

3. As part of its terms of reference, the Committee has been requested to give special thought -

> "to the possibility of holding an International Conference in 1968 to (i) review the progress which has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of human rights, and (iii) formulate and prepare a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the celebration of Human Rights Year".

4. The programme of measures and activities recommended by the Committee is intended ultimately to be considered by the General Assembly. This is stated in resolution 1961 (XVIII) which is referred to in resolution 6 (XX) of the Commission on Human Rights. From the resolution of the Assembly it appears that the programme should represent a lasting contribution to the cause of human rights. It appears further that, in the intention of the Assembly, the International Year for Human Rights will be devoted in part to an international review of the achievements in the field of human rights. The Committee has accordingly been invited by the Commission to consider whether an international conference will be an appropriate medium or forum within which the suggested review might be carried out.

5. Resolution 1961 (XVIII) expresses the Assembly's confidence that the designation of 1968 as a year of international review will encourage not only all Member States but "interested organizations" to intensify their efforts (in the field of human rights) in the intervening years so as to show the maximum possible progress by that time. It is considered appropriate, therefore, that the Committee should give consideration to ways and means of intensifying national and international efforts in the period between 1964 and 1968 and further, that the recommended programme should be consistent with the practices which have been followed hitherto in United Nations human rights programmes and should contemplate activities by inter-governmental organizations, by national Governments and by non-governmental organizations.

6. In the light of the foregoing, I recommend that the Committee should consider its programme of work and present its report under the following headings:

Part I - A programme of observances and activities to be carried out during International Year for Human Rights including celebrations to be undertaken on Human Rights Day 1968. The programme should include observances and activities:

(a) by inter-governmental organizations;

(b) by Governments;[1/]

(c) by non-governmental organizations.

Part II - Conclusions on the possibility that an International Conference might be held in 1968 to review progress in the field of human rights, etc.

Part III - Suggestions for the intensification of national and international efforts in the field of human rights during the period up to 1968, including certain additional objectives which might be achieved by 1968. Here too the suggestions should contemplate efforts by inter-governmental organizations, by national Governments and by non-governmental organizations.

The proposals in this working paper are presented under the headings set out above.

7. It is probably unnecessary to emphasize the fact that the proposals and guiding principles represent no more than preliminary proposals by the Chairman and members of the Bureau with the assistance of the Secretariat, and are intended to stimulate and encourage thought and debate within the Committee. The Bureau expresses the hope that comments will be forthcoming from the members of the Committee on every proposal in this working paper, and that, moreover, the ideas set out in the working paper will stimulate members to put forward proposals of their own.

1/ In the opinion of some members of the Bureau, the invitation to participate in the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights should be limited to States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies. In the opinion of at least one member, it is desirable that the invitation should be extended to all States. Wherever the term "governments of member states" is used in this working paper, it will be understood to mean Governments of Member States and States members of the specialized agencies. Where the term "member states" is used, it will be understood to mean Member States of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. The Committee will decide whether the invitation to participate in the celebrations should be extended to all Governments or to all Member States.

Consultation with other Organizations

8. The Bureau was pleased to note that the Commission on Human Rights has expressly requested the Committee to prepare the programme in consultation with the Secretary-General. The Bureau suggests that all Member States of the United Nations, not only those represented on the Committee, should be given the opportunity to make suggestions with a view to having their suggestions included in the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in celebration of the anniversary and in the furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In view of the interest which many non-governmental organizations have taken in the human rights programme up to now these organizations also should be encouraged to assist the Committee in its work by making suggestions in regard to measures and activities which might form part of the programme, particularly measures which they themselves might undertake on an international level.

9. In keeping with the above, it is recommended that, after a preliminary discussion on this working paper, the Committee should draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the proposals in the paper together with the record of the debate in the Committee, and ask for his advice on views on the programme of measures and activities which might be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights. It is proposed further, that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to communicate with:

(a) Governments of States Members;

(b) the specialized agencies;

(c) interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status;

and invite them to submit not later than 15 September 1964 their views and suggestions on the programme presented in this paper and also on the idea that an international review conference should be held during 1968. These suggestions and views, supplementing those put forward by members of the Committee, would undoubtedly be valuable to the preparation of a definitive programme.

Future Work of the Committee

10. At its first meeting, the Committee did not make decisions in regard to the scope of its future work, lest such decisions be premature. The Bureau wishes to point out, however, that it will be necessary to collate and analyse any

suggestions and views which may be received from Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, so as to present these suggestions in coherent form for consideration by the Committee. This task should begin immediately after 15 September and the Committee will no doubt wish to consider by whom it should be undertaken.

11. When this collation of suggestions has been completed, the Committee will wish to meet again and to complete its work. It is suggested that we should have in mind, as a target date, the adoption of our report prior to the opening of the nineteenth session of the General Assembly.

Part I

Programme of Measures and Activities to be Carried out during Human Rights Year

12. In your Bureau's opinion the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken throughout the International Year for Human Rights should be calculated to bring home to all the people the breadth of the concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all its aspects. The ceremonies and celebrations should be such as to dramatize the deeper meaning of individual liberty, and to illustrate how narrow is the dividing line between a scrupulous observance of the obligation to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in our political, economic and social relationships and an effective denial of these rights.

A Calendar of Activities

13. It is recommended, therefore, that a series of subjects dealing with particular aspects of human rights should be selected and continuing attention focussed on each of these subjects throughout a particular period of the International Year for Human Rights. There would be advantage in having all ceremonies concentrated on the same subject for the same period. International and regional seminars as well as national conferences, lectures and discussions should be concerned with these subjects at the same time. During each period Governments would review, against the standards set by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, their domestic legislation and the practices within their society in respect of the particular right or freedom which is the subject of that period's observances. They would assess the extent to which the right or freedom had been effectively secured and would give publicity to it and make special efforts to promote amongst their citizens a basic understanding of the nature and significance of this particular right so that the gains already made might not easily be lost in the future. To the extent that the right or freedom had not yet been effectively secured, every effort would be made during the period towards its achievement. Following the precedent of the International Co-operation Year, the Committee might consider devoting one month of the year to each subject, or alternatively might select six subjects only and devote two

months of the year to each subject. Priority could be given in the choice of the subjects to those which will encourage the widest possible participation on the part of Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

14. The following are the subjects which the members of the Bureau have proposed:

Freedom of information

The Rights of the Child and the Family

The right to work and recreation (as set out in articles 23 and 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Equality before the law

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Freedom from racial discrimination

Freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile

The right to social security

The right to education

Freedom from arbitrary interference with one's privacy, family, home or correspondence, and attacks upon his honour and reputation

Advancement of the status of women

The right of all peoples to self-determination.

15. Members of the Committee will no doubt wish to put forward other subjects for consideration. The Committee is invited to decide how many subjects should be selected and what period should be devoted to each.

Measures of Implementation

16. Measures for the effective implementation of the rights and freedoms which are the subject of the Universal Declaration have been under consideration in the United Nations for many years. In the draft covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights, the main outstanding questions now seem to be whether one form of international machinery or another, or any international machinery at all, aimed at ensuring implementation of these agreements should be provided for.

17. Members of the Bureau have expressed the hope that by the beginning of the International Year for Human Rights, the two draft convenants mentioned above and the other covenants or international agreements in the field of human rights which

have been listed in the draft resolution prepared by the Commission on Human Rights for consideration by the Assembly will have been completed, and that provision for effective implementation of these agreements will form part of the instruments. If by the beginning of the International Year for Human Rights this is not the case, we would consider it appropriate that an international effort towards the provision of effective implementation should form part of the celebrations of the year, including consultation with Member States on the establishment or activation of international or regional organs to which every natural person, every duly constituted group of individuals and every recognized non-governmental organization could bring their complaints of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

18. However, in the opinion of some members of the Bureau, the effective operation of machinery within the territories of each Member State which will ensure that the human rights and freedoms guaranteed by its constitution, or by international covenants, conventions or treaties to which that State is party, are realized in practice is a matter of the greatest importance. We are convinced that national machinery for implementation should receive attention in the activities of the International Year for Human Rights. Accordingly, it is recommended that as one of the measures to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, all Member States should be invited to establish or refine their national machinery for giving effect to these rights and freedoms, and that if arrangements do not exist which enable individual citizens or groups of citizens to bring before independent national tribunals or authorities any complaints they may have concerning the violation of their human rights and obtain effective remedies, such arrangements will be introduced before the end of 1968.1/

Other Activities

19. The Bureau reviewed the suggestions and recommendations which were approved by ECOSOC in connexion with the celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1963 and endeavoured to see to what extent similar suggestions and recommendations might be appropriate to the

1/ The recommendation that provisions relating to implementation should be considered by the Committee was not unanimous.

celebrations to be carried out during the International Year for Human Rights. The results of our consideration of this matter are set out below. (Those ceremonies which should take place at the beginning of the Year, or throughout the Year, are distinguished from those which are appropriate to Human Rights Day.)

A. Observances by Inter-Governmental Organizations

(1) Observances appropriate to the whole of International Year or to the beginning of the Year

20. It is suggested that the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the heads of the specialized agencies and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions issue special messages to be released on 1 January 1968 on the International Year for Human Rights, such messages to be widely circulated by all communications media, including the satellites.

It is suggested that the Secretary-General:

(a) Issue human rights stamps and first-day covers on 1 January 1968 and arrange for special cancellations during 1968;

(b) Promote the widest and most intensive dissemination of the Declaration in as many languages as possible by means of suitably printed and appropriately set out posters, leaflets, and pamphlets before and during 1968;

(c) Prepare and publish new pamphlet on The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, specifically for the International Year for Human Rights;

(d) Prepare a radio documentary script on the Declaration; encourage and assist broadcasting and television organizations, as appropriate, in the production of documentary or dramatic programmes relating to human rights;

(e) Design and make available to Member States and States Members of the specialized agencies a poster symbolizing the concept of human rights for national reproduction and distribution during the International Year for Human Rights;

(f) Urge United Nations officers at Headquarters, in information centres and regional offices to give lectures and write articles on the Declaration and to co-operate with information media and educational authorities

in various countries in organizing the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights;

(g) Request the distributors of United Nations publications to prepare a special display of relevant United Nations documents during the months of November and December 1968.

The specialized agencies

21. (a) The specialized agencies should be invited to organize at their Headquarters commemorative ceremonies on the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration;

(b) The specialized agencies should devote special issues of their magazines to the International Year for Human Rights, particularly to those rights and freedoms within their purview, and, if possible, hold round-table discussions;

(c) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should consider the possibility of promoting the performance of the exhibition during 1968 of notable musical, dramatic or artistic works which are illustrative of the themes of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) The Universal Postal Union should consider the possibility of requesting its Member States to issue human rights stamps and first-day covers on 1 January 1968 and provide special cancellations during 1968;

(e) The International Labour Organisation should consider the possibility of inviting the workers' and employers' organizations with which it has a relationship to take action during 1968 aimed at publicizing at least those parts of the Declaration which fall within the scope of those organizations.

(2) Observances on Human Rights Day 1968

22. The United Nations should consider organizing at Headquarters a special meeting of the General Assembly on 10 December 1968, in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration. Surviving members of the Commission on Human Rights who participated in the drafting of the Declaration might be invited to be present at this meeting.

23. The Secretary-General should organize a concert to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration, the concert to be broadcast and televised to all parts of the world.

B. By States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies

24. It is suggested:

(a) That Governments formally proclaim 1968 to be International Year for Human Rights Year and observe it as such;

(b) That Governments seize the opportunity of the International Year for Human Rights to redouble their efforts to bring about the signature and ratification or acceptance in any other form of existing international conventions or treaties designed to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in particular spheres;

(c) That Heads of State or of Government issue special messages at the beginning of the Human Rights Year reaffirming faith in the dignity and worth of the human person and dedication to the implementation of the Declaration;

(d) That Governments consider entrusting the organization of the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights to an existing institution or an ad hoc committee set up for this purpose;

(e) That Governments consider the proclamation of the International Year for Human Rights as a year of amnesty and other measures of clemency to political or other prisoners;

(f) That Governments consider the issuance of human rights stamps, and first-day covers on 1 January 1968 and provide special cancellations during the Human Rights Year.

25. Governments might also wish:

(a) To disseminate, or to co-operate with the United Nations in disseminating, the text of the Declaration in national or local languages;

NOTE: One member of the Bureau expressed the opinion that the celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Declaration should encompass all States in accordance with Article 55 (c) of the Charter of the United Nations. Other members of the Bureau noted that Article 55 (c) of the Charter regards respect and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and not participation in activities of the United Nations system.

(b) To encourage, as appropriate, schools and universities to hold special meetings on Human Rights Year and to organize special courses or seminars on human rights;

(c) To encourage, as appropriate, national organizations (such as human rights committees, United Nations associations, UNESCO's national commissions, trade unions, religious organizations, academic or professional associations and youth organizations) to hold national or regional conferences during the International Year for Human Rights with a view to discussing problems of human rights;

(d) To consider or encourage the production of documentary or dramatic programmes relating to human rights, and the reading of the text of the Declaration, on radio or television;

(e) To promote the performance or exhibition, in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, of notable musical, dramatic or artistic works which are illustrative of the themes of human rights and fudamental freedoms;

(f) To consider the possibility of granting special honours or awards during the International Year for Human Rights to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of human rights.

C. By non-governmental organizations

26. It is suggested that interested non-governmental organizations, international or national, be invited:

(a) To adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or articles thereof, as appropriate, as the themes of their annual or special conferences in 1968;

(b) To organize commemorative ceremonies on the International Year for Human Rights;

(c) To print and distribute the text of the Declaration, and prepare and publish pamphlets, leaflets and posters on the Declaration;

(d) To establish awards, if possible, to honour persons who have distinguished themselves in the field of human rights to be given during the International Year for Human Rights;

(e) To organize community projects, such as panel discussions on local problems of human rights, children's parades and display of the United Nations flag in school and business buildings;

(f) To encourage local communities to establish a list of questions with a view to investigating and sounding out public opinion as to the communities' effectiveness in promoting the principles of the Declaration;

(g) To display on 10 December 1968 the United Nations flag on public buildings, which might be illuminated;

(h) To reproduce and distribute United Nations posters on human rights themes during 1968;

(i) To reproduce and distribute the United Nations poster on the Declaration during 1968;

(j) That schools and universities hold special assemblies with frequent intervals and organize courses or seminars on human rights during the International Year for Human Rights;

(k) That research institutions and universities consider the publication during the International Year for Human Rights of historic declarations of human rights, famous bills of human rights and great orations and speeches on human rights, with appropriate commentaries or annotations.

27. It is further suggested:

(a) That special religious services be held on the 20th Anniversary of the Declaration; (This suggestion was not unanimous.)

(b) That radio and television networks carry special programmes, and newspapers publish editorials, on the International Year for Human Rights, of Declaration to be read or reprinted in whole or in part, if possible; that information media organize public debates on great issues of freedom.

Part II

International Conference on Human Rights in 1968

28. The Bureau has given some thought to the question whether an international conference would provide an effective medium or forum for the contemplated international review. The Bureau considered first whether a conference is technically a suitable instrument for carrying out the three functions which are listed in the Committee's terms of reference, viz:

(1) a review of progress;

(2) the evaluation of the effectiveness of techniques currently in use; and

(3) the preparation of a programme for future activities.

29. In the opinion of the Bureau there is no doubt that a conference could satisfactorily discharge functions Nos. 1 and 3. The Bureau has also concluded that function No. 2 above could be satisfactorily discharged by a conference, provided that certain necessary expert studies are undertaken beforehand and their results made available to the intending participants before the conference opens.

30. The Bureau next considered what sort of international conference it should be. Among the possibilities it considered are:

(1) to request one of the specialized agencies to devote the whole or part of its annual meeting in 1968 to this review;

(2) to devote part of the regular session of the General Assembly for the purpose; and

(3) to call a conference specifically for these tasks in which all Members of the United Nations and all States members of the specialized agencies could take part.

31. It seemed to us that neither (1) nor (2) above would be entirely satisfactory.

32. A conference called specifically to undertake the suggested tasks would have to be so timed as to avoid conflict with the regular session of the General Assembly.

33. The Bureau suggests that the desirability of organizing a separate and specific international conference on human rights be considered by the Committee as an urgent matter, as plans would have to be made well in advance if the

conference is to be a success. In this connexion the Bureau suggests that, should the Committee decide to recommend the convening of such a conference, the following arrangements might be made:

(a) The conference could be held either at the Headquarters of the United Nations or at the European Office in Geneva; unless a Member State offers to act host to the conference;

(b) The conference could be convened for a period of four weeks;

(c) Provision could be made for three meetings to proceed simultaneously;

(d) Provision could be made for the United Nations to defray the travel costs of one representative from each Member State;

(e) Provision could be made for two expert consultants to prepare certain basic documentation.

34. Some members of the Committee will recall that when the representative of Costa Rica in the Commission on Human Rights had proposed at its twentieth session that an International Conference on Human Rights should be convened in 1968, the Secretary-General in a statement of the financial implications of the proposal had indicated (E/CN.4/L.717/Add.1) that the preparation of detailed cost estimates for the holding of such a conference would require decisions on the scope (including the provisional agenda), the type of participants, the place and date of the conference, and its duration. At the same time the Secretary-General had advised the Commission that the Second World Population Conference, which might be considered to be somewhat comparable, is estimated to cost on the order of $400,000.

35. Members of the Bureau obtained information concerning the cost estimate for the Second World Population Conference (E/CN.9/177/Add.1) and found that that Conference presents different characteristics from the contemplated International Conference on Human Rights. In particular, the Second World Population Conference is a non-governmental conference convened by the Council under the rules for the calling of such conferences approved by the General Assembly in resolution 479 (V), while the International Conference on Human Rights would be an international conference of States called by the Council under rules approved by the General Assembly in resolution 366 (IV). Moreover, the estimated costs to the United Nations of holding the World Population Conference include provision for the

reproduction of 700 papers, of 500 to 2,000 words each, before the Conference opens, and for the editing, translation and printing of three volumes of papers and proceedings, in three languages, after the Conference closes. Accordingly, it is suggested that the Committee request the Secretary-General to prepare a revised cost estimate, based on such of the assumptions set out in paragraph 22 above as may be accepted by the Committee, and including alternative estimates to the costs to be incurred if the conference were to be held (a) in New York or (b) in Geneva.

36. The conference, if it is to be successful, will have to be carefully planned and prepared, and a Preparatory Committee, consisting of representatives of a number of Member States, should be established to perform this function including the recommendation of a provisional agenda for the conference.

37. The Bureau considers that the Committee might wish to have the benefit of the views of Member States concerning the possibility that a conference of the kind contemplated might be held. In that event, the Secretary-General could be requested to ascertain from Member States, in the course of the consultation recommended earlier in this paper, their attitude to such a conference and their views concerning the place and date of its convening.

Part III

Suggestions for the Intensification of National Efforts in the field of Human Rights during the period up to 1968

Additional Goals or Objectives

38. The Commission on Human Rights has drawn up a list of goals in the field of human rights which might be achieved by the United Nations not later than the end of 1968. This list has been embodied in a draft resolution which the Commission has requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth session. It occurred to your Bureau, as we examined this list of goals, that the General Assembly might be requested to consider adding one convention to the list of international instruments which should be completed and opened for ratification before the end of 1968 - a Convention on the Rights of the Child and of the Family.

39. The Committee will no doubt also wish to express its satisfaction at the fact that the Committee on the International Co-operation Year has mentioned two of the Conventions in the list drawn up by the Commission on Human Rights:

> The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trade, and institutions and practices similar to Slavery (7 September 1956);
>
> The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (9 December 1948);

and has recommended that all Member States which have not yet done so should become parties to these Conventions before the end of 1965.

40. Believing that certain practices which constitute some of the grosser forms of the denial of human rights still persist within the territories of some Member States, it is considered that the complete elimination of these practices might be set before the United Nations as additional objectives to be achieved by the end of the International Year for Human Rights. These additional objectives would be:

(1) the elimination of slavery, the slave trade and forced labour;

(2) the elimination of all forms of discrimination based upon race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;

(3) the elimination of colonialism and the achievement of freedom and independence by all countries.

(On the inclusion here of this last objective opinion in the Bureau was not unanimous.)

41. In considering the question of the proposed intensification of national and international effort in the field of human rights, the Bureau has borne in mind the fact that an extensive programme of activity in this field is now in progress in which the United Nations, the specialized agencies, national governments and non-governmental organizations are already involved. It can be assumed that each Member State will wish to respond in its own way to the invitation expressed in the fourth operative paragraph of General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII). For this reason, the Committee might not consider it wise to propose that a wide variety of measures should be added by Member States to their existing programmes. Instead, the Assembly might be asked to consider inviting all Member States to make a special effort during this period in two particular spheres:

(i) in the sphere of their national legislation; and

(ii) in the sphere of education towards a fuller realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

National Advisory Committees

42. It is recommended that the Committee should invite all Governments of Member States to consider establishing advisory committees on their national legislation composed of independent and impartial individuals of outstanding calibre and including jurists of recognized reputation. These committees could be requested:

to examine the national constitution or fundamental law and all existing national legislation against the standard of the principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to consider in what respects the legislation falls short of this standard, and to suggest to the Government the enactment of new or amending laws to bring the national legislation into conformity with the principles of the Declaration.

43. Wherever an organ already exists which could appropriately be charged with this duty, it is recommended that this organ should be requested by the Government to undertake the suggested review of the legislation.

44. The national advisory committees should be invited to endeavour to complete their examination and to submit their report not later than the end of the year 1967, in order that measures to give effect to any required improvement in the legislation may be introduced before the end of the International Year for Human Rights. Those Member States which administer Non-Self-Governing Territories would be expected to set up such national advisory committees in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for which they are responsible.

Education to promote respect for and observance of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms

45. Believing that there are limits to the effectiveness of laws in making the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms a reality, the Bureau is convinced that a concentration of effort on legal and institutional guarantees of human rights, although it will go far towards the achievement of objectives we seek, will not go all the way. Attention needs to be concentrated, in addition, on means of changing some old ways of thinking (on these subjects), and of rooting out deep-seated prejudices in regard to race, colour, sex, religion and so on. In short, it is necessary, in our view to embark upon a complementary programme of education, including both adult and child education, designed to produce new thinking on the part of many people in regard to human rights. Accordingly, it is recommended that an integral part of any programme of intensification of effort to be undertaken in the next three years should be a world-wide educational programme in human rights. This programme should aim at mobilizing some of the energies and resources of:

(a) universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning within Member States;

(b) media of information and mass communication, including the press, radio and television;

(c) foundations and charitable, scientific and research institutions;

(d) the teaching staff of primary and secondary schools;

towards the education of the people, adults and children, about the state of human rights in their communities and elsewhere, and about the further steps which need to be taken in order to secure the fullest and most effective realization of these rights.

/...

46. It would guarantee the success of this educational effort if the initiative in organizing it could be taken by the political leaders within Member States. Within this effort, Governments could organize conferences of universities and other institutions of higher learning within their territories and invite them to consider how the curricula and their teaching programmes can be utilized to improve the awareness in the student population of the fundamental questions of human rights, how their research programmes might be directed to this end, and how they can co-operate with other interested organizations, through extra-mural and other programmes in furthering the aims of adult education in human rights. In this context, studies could be undertaken by national authorities of local customs and traditions with a view to examining how they may be fostering and encouraging attitudes or values contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how these customs and traditions can be eventually eliminated. Charitable and philanthropic foundations might be invited to consider making grants for programmes of research and study in this field and to make bursaries and fellowships available for research in human rights. The faculties of colleges, and of elementary and secondary schools could be invited to review their curricula and textbooks in order to eradicate bias, intentional and unintentional, towards the preservation of ideas and concepts contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration, and to introduce courses of study which positively promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

47. Governments might also convene, or give encouragement to the convening of, conferences amongst the radio and television broadcasting services within their territories, inviting them to consider how their facilities might most usefully co-operate with other organizations within the country, and with international agencies, in advancing the effort to educate the people into greater respect for individual rights and fundamental freedoms.

48. The specialized agencies of the United Nations, especially UNESCO and ILO, can make a particularly valuable contribution towards the intensification of this educational effort, and it is recommended that they should be especially invited to do so.

A history of the Declaration

49. In examining the suggestions and recommendations concerning the celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, prepared by the Commission on Human Rights and approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 940 (XXXV), the Bureau noted that it had been suggested there that the United Nations should "consider, in connexion with arrangements for the Twentieth Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration in 1968, the preparation and publication of a history of the Declaration and other international instruments on human rights, with special reference to progress already achieved, current endeavours and work remaining to be done in the field of human rights, and with a brief and objective account of the role of the United Nations in the process of decolonialization".

50. The Bureau suggests that the Committee might wish to request the Secretary-General to proceed immediately with the preparation of the proposed publication, with a view to its wide circulation in connexion with the observance of the International Year for Human Rights. In this connexion the Bureau discussed the desirability of setting up an editorial board to provide the Secretary-General with any necessary guidance in the preparation of the publication. Such a Board might be composed of individuals representing various regions of the world.